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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An intraluminal stent comprising:
 a generally elongate tubular body formed of an
 elongate helically wound wire, the wire being formed into
 successive waves along the length of the wire, the waves
5 being arranged in non-overlapping longitudinally spaced
 succession along the length of said tube, the longitudinal
 spacing of the helical windings being less than twice the
8 amplitude of the wave.
- 1 2. An intraluminal stent of claim 1 wherein
 longitudinally adjacent ones of said waves are
3 longitudinally nested along the length of said tubular body.
- 1 3. An intraluminal stent of claim 2 wherein said
 longitudinally nested waves define peaks which are linerally
3 aligned.
- 1 4. An intraluminal stent of claim 1 wherein said
 longitudinal spacing of the helical windings is less than
3 the amplitude of the wave.
- 1 5. An intraluminal stent of claim 1 wherein said
 stent includes said wire being helically wound in non-
 overlapping disposition and wherein said wire defines an
 open area between said helically wound wire and wherein said
5 percentage of open surface area of said stent in
 relationship to the total surface area of said stent is less
7 than 30% in the closed condition.
- 1 6. An intraluminal stent of claim 1 wherein said
2 tubular body is uniformly flexible along the length thereof.
- 1 7. An intraluminal stent of claim 6 wherein said
 stent is radially expandable after intraluminal
3 implantation.

1 8. A radially expandable generally tubular
endoluminal implantable prosthesis comprising:

 a wire which is wound in a helical configuration
to define a generally elongate tubular body, the wire
5 including successively formed waves along the length of said
wire, each wire wave being non-overlappingly nested within
7 the wave formed longitudinally thereadjacent.

1 9. A prosthesis of claim 8 wherein said wire waves
are of generally uniform configuration defining a peak-to-
3 peak amplitude of a preselected first dimension.

1 10. A prosthesis of claim 9 wherein said
longitudinally adjacent wire waves are spaced apart a
preselected second dimension which is less than the
4 preselected first dimension.

1 11. A prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said wire has a
given wire diameter and wherein said wound wire defines a
generally cylindrical outer surface having solid portions
formed by said wire and open portions formed between said
5 wound wire.

1 12. A prosthesis of claim 11 wherein said generally
cylindrical outer surface defines a total surface area
including an open surface and a wire surface and wherein
said non-expanded wire surface substantially exceeds said
5 open surface.

1 13. A prosthesis of claim 12 wherein said open surface
2 area is less than 30% of said total surface area.

1 14. An intraluminal stent comprising:
 an elongate tubular body formed of a single wound
wire;

5 said wire having a wave-like pattern defining a
plurality of waves formed along the length of said wire,
each said wave defining a leg segment between wave peaks,
each leg segment being of a length different from the next
8 adjacent leg segment.

1 15. An intraluminal stent of claim 14 wherein said
wire is wound about a central axis forming said tubular
3 body.

1 16. An intraluminal stent of claim 15 wherein tubular
body includes longitudinally successive waves along the
length thereof, each said wave being nested within the wave
4 formed longitudinally thereadjacent.

1 17. An intraluminal stent of claim 14 wherein each
wave is defined by a peak and a pair of wave leg segments
3 extending from said peak.

1 18. An intraluminal stent of claim 17 wherein one of
said wave leg segments of said pair has a length greater
3 than the other wave leg segment of said pair.